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COUNTRY France

SUBJECT Repercussions of the Beria Purge

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1. Marcel Servin was demoted from his post as chief of the cadres of the French Communist Party by the same commission of investigation which until now had been subordinate to him. Servin has been criticized for badly led investigations concerning candidates for party membership and for incompetent handling of the Marty affair. His selection of personnel for the cadres and secret party organizations also became an object of the inquiry. Servin has admitted his lack of vigilance but tried to save his skin by demanding that he be permitted to plead his case before the Politburo. However, it was decided that the investigation commission should present Servin's dossier before the Politburo. This already indicates a demotion in rank and prepares Servin's elimination from leading functions of the party.
2. Servin's demotion, however, does not imply the automatic readmission of Marty to the party. It does give satisfaction to many old-time leaders who, without being Marty's adherents, disapproved of his elimination from the party because they feared that it was the first step in a purge of the veteran generation.
3. Servin had carried out the Marty investigation under direct instructions from Moscow, i.e., from some subordinate of Beria who had been in charge of surveillance of the party cadres in Western Europe. The Marty affair was staged in the style of the Slánský trial (containing all the elements of internal party struggle), and in that of the doctor's plot. Marty was accused of having met Trotskyites in Cairo in 1943, and that he feared being poisoned in Algiers by his comrades, etc. Servin's demotion is one of the first visible repercussions of the Beria purge in Paris. Similar removals of confidence men of Beria in all the Communist Parties may further be expected.

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